

SCRIPTURES FOR THE BLIND

# BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

DECEMBER 1939

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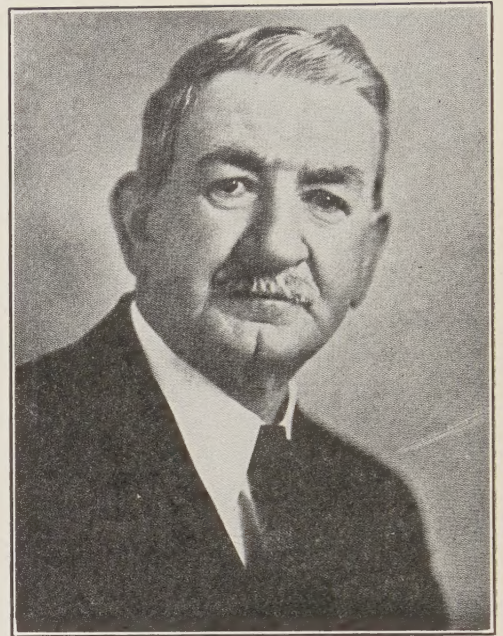
The Railroad Gave the Engine a Fresh Coat of Paint for the Occasion  
(See inside cover)

TRANSLATION



# A Railroad Engineer's Testimony

**D**AVID J. FANT of Atlanta, Georgia, was retired as a locomotive engineer on September 23, 1939, at the age of seventy-one by the Southern Railway. He had seen fifty-two years of service, and had piloted a locomotive more than 2,000,000 miles. Of peculiar interest to the editors of the "Bible Society Record" is the fact that Mr. Fant's son, David, Jr., has long been a friend of those at the Bible House since he is connected with the firm which prints the "Record." David J. Fant, Jr., like his father, does his share of preaching while engaged in other work. "Daddy Fant," as he is affectionately called, has never been ordained to the Christian ministry. The testimony reported here was given at a farewell dinner tendered him by his friends and associates in Greenville, South Carolina, just before he made his last run.



David J. Fant

"I was converted at Toccoa, Georgia, when a man spoke to me personally about my soul. I had become deeply convicted of sin at a revival meeting then being held at a Presbyterian church. At that time I was engineer on a local freight train that ran between Toccoa and Spartanburg. At once I began to study the New Testament, and on that run read it through many times while waiting on sidetracks. It was on that engine that I received light on a life of separation from the world, and I was led to give myself wholly to the Lord. It was something entirely new to me, and the devil tempted me sorely many times. But God spoke in a voice I shall never forget: 'You please Me, and you will have no one else to please.'

"One day I was reading a portion from John Wesley's Journal in which he stated that he considered the world to be his parish. It made an indelible impression on me, and I prayed: 'Lord, make the 160 miles of my trip between Atlanta, Georgia, and Greenville, South Carolina, on the Southern Railway, to be my parish.' God has abundantly answered that prayer, and extended it far beyond those bounds. I have thrown Gospels and tracts to the maintenance

men all along the right-of-way, and have handed them out personally like a good American Bible Society colporteur; I have preached in every town and village, and in almost every shop and factory; in many towns I have held evangelistic campaigns. It has been my privilege to visit in many homes and do personal work, and to minister to people in their hour of sorrow and need. With this work there has come a sense of the presence of God in my life, so that often in prayer, and on my engine, I scarcely knew whether I was in the body or out of the body.

"God used the wreck of my train, No. 37, and my miraculous deliverance, and my experience with the train robbers, to give me considerable publicity and open doors of ministry to me. I began to receive invitations from Y.M.C.A.'s, churches, and other organizations throughout the United States and Canada. Often I have preached to great crowds of people, and in some places many times. In the capital of this state—Columbia—I have preached annually for the past twenty-five years. Yet I have always felt

(Turn to page 164)



# BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

A Journal Dedicated to the Wider Distribution  
of the Holy Scriptures

VOLUME 84

DECEMBER 1939

NUMBER 10

## A Positive Answer to the World's Despair

By Eric M. North

**T**HERE is one positive answer to the world's despair. This conviction the readers of the *Record* share with the Managers of the Bible Society and multitudes of Christians. It lies in the Scriptures that bring men face to face with Christ.

But, though hundreds of thousands of people each year receive the Scriptures for the first time from the hands of the Bible Society, for years its resources have been inadequate to the manifest opportunity. Latin-American Agencies report bare shelves before ten months of the year are up. Except where military operations prevent, all doors in China—vast China—are open. There is no slackening of opportunity in Japan, the Philippines, Siam, India, Africa. House-to-house work in America reveals thousands upon thousands of Bibleless homes. Orphanages, hospitals, prisons, urgently need systematic supply.

And now—now there comes the need for Scriptures for marching men,—possibly counted in millions,—for refugees, for “reconstruction.” Already the Bible Societies of Great Britain and the Continent turn to us to carry some of the work in mission lands where the momentum of the gospel's advance must be maintained. Facing these things, from the depths of our hearts we pray that we may be made able to meet them.

To this end the Board of Managers has set before the Society the goal of nearly

doubling the Society's income from living donors within four years. Then some of this dark despair can be lifted, and myriads of souls find the Light.

This does not mean the raising of a great sum by a single prodigious effort. It means a strong, steady, continuous effort to *multiply the number* of churches and persons who support the Bible cause. There are tens of thousands of churches which apparently give the distribution of God's Word no thought or take it for granted.

The Society therefore calls upon all its friends to rally to the forward movement, not only by their own deeply appreciated contributions, but by helping to add to the number of churches and friends which support the Society. Let every *Record* reader make this Bible Sunday time an occasion of making sure that his or her church includes the Bible cause in its budget or takes an offering for it and forwards it promptly.

Other practical ways by which churches and individuals may help will be suggested in the *Record* each month.

Because the one hope of our fear-racked, sin-ridden world is the gospel of Jesus Christ; because upon us all who call him Lord is the responsibility of bringing his gospel to men, we summon our strength and yours that the cause which carries the printed Word of God's truth to mankind may give a positive answer to the world's despair.



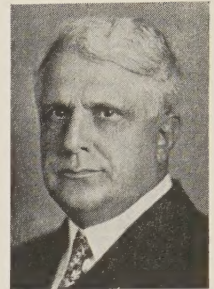
# The Truth That Makes Men Free



*Bishop James  
E. Freeman*



*Charles P. Taft*



*Senator James  
J. Davis*

**T**HE Methodist Church in McLouth, Kansas, has a new building. No bell has been installed yet; so at three o'clock in the morning of Sunday, December 10, the Baptist bell in the south end of the town, and the Brethren bell on the north side, and the big school bell on the west side, will begin to ring. The town marshal will join in with the big noisy fire bell in the center of town. And why all this at three in the morning? Because the Methodist Church has invited the little town of McLouth and the surrounding countryside to celebrate Universal Bible Sunday with it, as its members, led by their pastor, Robert B. Alexander, conduct an eighteen-hour service in which the whole New Testament will be read before the adjournment in the evening. Seventy-two readers will be supported by a program rich in music and pageantry. Preparations are being made for a congregation of more than a thousand, although the little city of McLouth has less than 700 inhabitants.

On the same day, the costly chimes of great churches on Fifth Avenue in New York will summon the passer-by to hear sermons on the Bible; and all across the land, in the city and the country, pastors will be laying particular emphasis on the fact that our nation was virtually born of a passion to create a civilization the laws and practices of which should reflect the teachings of God's Word. The theme for Universal Bible Sunday this year is "The Truth That Makes Men Free." The Bible Society has sent to 118,000 pastors throughout the land a brochure on this theme by President John A. Mackay, of Princeton Theological Seminary. In hundreds of churches there will be exhibits

of Bibles, stereopticon lectures furnished by the Bible Society, and other forms of observance of this significant occasion.

The air waves will vibrate with testimony to the Bible's contribution to our cherished American freedoms. The Red network of the National Broadcasting Company will carry the voice of Bishop James E. Freeman, of the Washington Cathedral, at 3.45 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. A great Christian statesman, Senator James J. Davis of Pennsylvania, will be heard over 118 stations of the Columbia Broadcasting System at 1:45 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. Charles P. Taft of Cincinnati, Ohio, son of the late President Taft and one of the nation's foremost Christian laymen, will speak over the Mutual Broadcasting System at 7.45 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

Nor is this all. Literally hundreds of local stations scattered throughout most of the states of the Union will celebrate with announcements, addresses made by local citizens, or electrically transcribed dramatic programs furnished by the Bible Society. Lack of space prevents listing these stations. Our readers are asked to watch their local radio announcements.

The Governors of many of the states and the President of the United States have issued proclamations and endorsements of the observance. Governor O'Daniel of Texas has proclaimed the date as "Texas Bible Day." Thousands of newspapers will carry these endorsements.

But the most important part of the observance will be the facing by congregations, in tens of thousands of churches, of the country's need of more knowledge and practice of the precepts



taught in God's great Book of Truth. Our own nation, born of devotion to the Bible, is forgetting its great heritage. In much of Europe the Bible is either banned or supplanted by other books. In the vast areas of the Eastern world the Bible is scarcely known. Bible Sunday offers thousands of worshipping congregations the opportunity, through gifts to the American Bible Society, to carry out more extensively its time-honored pledge to Christian people everywhere to "encourage the wider circulation of the Holy Scriptures."

The world is in bondage to false philosophies

and religions today to a degree never known to our generation. The Bible has proved through the centuries its capacity to implant in men's hearts the truth that makes them free. Language, race, geographical location, present no insuperable barriers to this high service. Men everywhere love the Bible when it is given them in their own tongue. Here is the royal road to the building of a better world. Universal Bible Sunday offers Bible lovers a chance to progress along this road. Have you read the article on page 155? Read it now, and do your part on Universal Bible Sunday, December 10.

## Christmas Present For Johnny



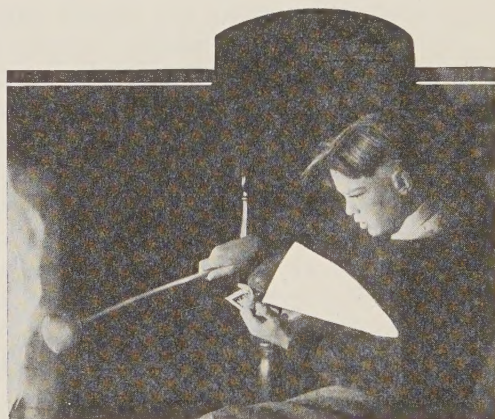
By Dave A. Parker

OUTSIDE, snowflakes fell softly in the still December night, blanketing the earth in a fresh white robe for Christmas. The houses nestled snugly behind shrubs, white and luminous with the new-fallen snow, and bright lights of Christmas Eve lent the scene a glad yuletide coloring. Inside, in the front room, happy voices splashed against a backdrop of colored lights on the newly decorated tree.

Christmas!

Johnny, aged twelve, was seated on the floor, unwrapping presents. Bright tissue paper was piled beside him on one side, and the presents he had unwrapped were stacked on the other. His young face was eager and happy as he tore recklessly into the packages. His mother and father stood before him, their faces a mixture of joy and pity—pity for little Johnny.

You couldn't understand it at first—that pity. The scene was one of perfect harmony—perfect happiness. It looked, at first, like a picture torn from a magazine showing the ideal family.



*"He had started to roast a Christmas apple . . . but it was held now automatically forgotten"*

Then, vaguely, you recognized that something was wrong with the scene. There were presents in abundance around Johnny. Opened ones and still others yet to be delved into. But they were strange presents for a twelve-year-old boy. There was no bicycle, no football; no rifle, no big bulky packages which might contain hunting boots or a heavy sweater.

Then, with a sense of shock, you realized what those presents were. Books! All books.

"Hot diggity," Johnny cried. "There's enough here to last until next Christmas."

Mother and father exchanged startled glances. Enough to last until next Christmas! Johnny had said. They never referred to his useless legs as a permanent thing. Since the accident two years ago they had pretended it was temporary—just something that would end soon, like the measles. But Johnny wasn't fooled. He knew. . . .



"I'm glad you like them, Johnny," his mother said.

Happily, Johnny continued to open his presents. There were bright red books about the Sahara Desert, yellow covered ones about the Orient, the jungles, the far North. They were Johnny's world now—the books. On the wings of the printed word he traveled to the far corners of the earth; visited all those places he would probably never see.

He fought in the burning desert beside his hero; lived through the stench of rotting jungles; felt the angry bite of the north wind in the desolate wastes of the Arctic. For Johnny there were no walls. His life was one of excitement. Excitement in books.

The last present opened and placed atop the huge piles beside him, Johnny leaned back against the easy chair and looked up at his mother and father, his eyes eager and excited. "And now, where's that extra-special present?" he cried. "The one you told me about."

"It's right here," his mother said, lifting a package from the table.

Johnny looked at it with hungry eyes. It must be a terribly expensive book, he thought, and a good one, for his mother to hold it until last. "Let me guess," he said, leaning forward.

"All right," she said. "Guess."

Johnny frowned seriously. "It couldn't be one of James Oliver Curwood," he said. "I've read all of those. And Zane Grey,—give me a clue. Is it an adventure book?"

"Yes. It has adventure in it. The most exciting in the world."

"Wars?" Johnny asked, feeling he was getting warm.

"Yes, wars, too."

"And how about girls? Is it a love story?"

"Well," she said, "there's love in it. The greatest love story on earth."

Johnny's eyes grew brighter. That must be some book. The greatest adventure and love story on earth. "I—I give up," Johnny said, unable to contain himself longer. He held out eager arms for the package his mother passed him.

Eyes bright, Johnny tore the wrapper away and held up a book. He turned it over in his hands slowly, and stared. The eager look faded slowly, and keen disappointment spread in its place—a disappointment so acute it was almost like a pain. Wonderingly, Johnny looked up

at his mother, bravely trying to hide his feelings. He failed, and said miserably, like some dumb hurt animal, "But, Mother! this is only a white leather *Bible*!"

"Yes, Johnny. A Bible."

Johnny's pleading look begged her to explain. "But, Mother—you said it was an extra-special book, all about wars and adventure—the greatest adventure story on earth."

"Yes, Johnny. It's all of that."

Wretchedly, Johnny looked down, trying to keep her from seeing his crushed and banished hopes of the really great book—that extra-special book she had promised him. Instead of a dashing adventure in far-off places, she gave him—a Bible! There wasn't any adventure in *that*. He wanted a story book. A book about the jungles or the desert, or cowboys. "But, Mother! A Bible—there's no adventure in that; only Sunday-school stuff."

"Have you ever read the Bible, Johnny?"

"Well, no, Mother. But—"

"Then, why don't you? It's everything I promised you. The greatest adventure story on earth, with the greatest hero on earth. A man who fought the whole world to save it from its own destruction and sin, and who was finally nailed alive to the cross. A love story so great, nothing equals it. The story of a man who died that you and I might be saved. There's the story of the first Christmas in there, Johnny. The story of the creation of the world; the story of mankind with all its trials and temptations. Then there's the greatest story of all—the story of eternal life."

Still confused and upset, Johnny placed the book atop the others. "Thank you, Mother," he said. "All my presents are swell."

"And now," his father said, "it's time for you to go up, Johnny. We'll take your presents along too, and pile them beside your chair."

They left him upstairs before the open fire, and went back to the still unfinished details of Christmas Eve. "I don't know, Henry," Johnny's mother said. "Perhaps it was too much to expect of Johnny that he would appreciate our Bible. After all, he has so little joy in life. His is such a pitiful little world—"

Later that night Johnny's mother crept softly back up the stairs, still wondering if she should substitute another book for the white leather Bible. Johnny had looked so *terribly* disappointed. To see that disappointment on his



face was like a knife thrust to her. She couldn't stand to let him down, not even after the way she had hoped Johnny would like his Bible. It was everything she had promised him—the greatest story on earth. And it would mean so much to Johnny if only he would read it.

She peered in at the opened door. Johnny was seated before the fire. He had started to roast a Christmas apple in the open fire, but it

was held now automatically forgotten. On Johnny's face was a deep seriousness, in his eyes the light of eager anticipation.

Johnny was reading his Christmas presents. Then she looked at the book he was holding in his lap. No! There could be no mistake. The firelight gleamed on the satiny-smooth white leather!

Johnny had found the Book of Books.

# The Book of Light at the Golden Gate

By Ralph W. Bayless

VISITORS from sixty-two countries of world, and from forty-six states of North America, signed the guest register at the American Bible Society's exhibit booth during the period of the Golden Gate International Exposition. Missionaries and church leaders from a very large majority of the missionary enterprises around the globe were among the visitors. Upward of sixty denominations and religious organizations were represented, many expressing grateful appreciation for the Society's indispensable service and cooperation in translating and helping to provide the Scriptures for their special home and foreign missionary responsibilities.

The electrified exhibit—the map of the world and display panel, showing twenty different nationalities, the type of language which they speak, and indicating the country where they live—has been of unusual interest. The non-church group was curiously amazed to hear that the Scriptures have been translated into upwards of one thousand languages and dialects; while the church family, with genuine delight,

rejoiced in the great cooperative enterprise of world-wide evangelization through the translation and distribution of the written Word.

Words of praise were daily heard. The following comments are typical:

We are glad to know that the Bible is lifted up at the Fair.

The most significant and worthwhile exhibit at the Exposition.

A vivid portrayal and intensely interesting. Congratulations on this fine Bible Society exhibit. A complete education. May God bless the American Bible Society.

Most inspiring and instructive, its value beyond compare.

Indispensable work.

A Catholic priest wrote:

Your zeal for translation and distribution is most commendable. . . . It will be difficult for you to surpass the literary beauty of the King James Version.

A Jewish rabbi:

A vivid exhibit, beautifully portraying the marvelous work of your noble and historic Society.

A man said to the lady attendant at the booth:

Lady, you are in the biggest business in the world. After spending fifty years in Rhodesia as an engineer,

*The American Bible Society's booth at the Golden Gate International Exposition*

GROUP AT THE LEFT

Back row—left to right: Mr. William J. Reed, Staff Member; Rev. Lauren A. Lundblad, Volunteer; Mr. Geo. C. Turner, President, California Bible Society; Mr. Dougald Mackintosh, Staff Member.

Front row—left to right: Mrs. Lucy Lee Steele, Volunteer; Mrs. Lena Pennington, Volunteer; Mrs. W. E. Lamborn, Volunteer; Mrs. Alice C. Williams, Staff Member.

GROUP AT THE RIGHT

Back row—left to right: Dr. Paul Carson, Vice President, Advisory Council; Dr. W. Earle Smith, President, Local Advisory Council of A.B.S.

Front row—left to right: Mrs. Ralph W. Bayless, Volunteer; Dr. Ralph W. Bayless, Secretary, Pacific District; Mrs. E. D. Akers, Volunteer.





I tell you there is nothing to compare with the power of the gospel in transforming human life.

A prosperous Middle West business man said:

I am a regular contributor to the American Bible Society. I recently purchased 250 Bibles, and I want you to know that they are wearing very well. Kindly give me information upon the Society's annuity plan.

The local Bible Society advisory council was most helpful in maintaining the exhibit during the Fair. A few over two hundred consecrated, faithful volunteers, representing the church life of the San Francisco Bay area, served in turn with the Bible office staff in maintaining the exhibit booth. This faithful corps of workers has welcomed this opportunity of disseminating the Word of God and bearing the Christian witness. Local churches participated in helping to provide Gospel portions for free distribution. Through the exhibit staff upward of one hundred thousand Gospel portions, mostly St. John, together with an encouraging word, were given to the passing multitude.

Many racial days were appropriately observed. The exhibit booth was decorated with national emblems. Native Christians wearing the costumes of their homeland greatly enhanced the effectiveness of the Bible booth for the day. Denominational days and other special events offered opportunities for the Bible cause.

The Braille volumes and the blind exhibit readers attracted rapt attention. The crowds invariably marveled at the service of the Society for the blind people of the world.

The Bible exhibit acted as an X-Ray. Conversations readily revealed much of the individual's religious life and acquaintance with the Kingdom. Catholic laymen expressed great amazement at the wide translation and distribution Bible program of the Society. Some Jews took the "whole Bible," while a great many more accepted the story of redemptive love told in the Gospel of St. John. Many Protestants revealed astounding ignorance of their own church and the world-wide Bible cause.

The Bible exhibit was a constant call to things of the spirit. An employee of the Exposition company stopped and said: "For the past four months this booth has been bothering me. Every time I pass, it says, 'Secure a Bible and study Christ for yourself.' I have been a so-called Christian for many years; but now I

want to become one in reality through Bible study."

A seventeen-year-old boy, 2,000 miles from his home, and his second night in California, looked at the Bibles and said: "What is the difference between a thirty-cent and a five-dollar Bible?" That night he took back to his room a Bible and encouragement for the Christian way of life.

A woman fifty-five years of age, purchasing some bookmarks, was offered some Gospels, but she refused to accept them, and said: "I have raised a family of three children and never owned a Bible in my life. I already have troubles enough without having to read the Bible." Earnest solicitude failed to get her to accept a copy of the Book of Life.

A cultured young woman of about thirty laughed as she looked at the Bibles in the showcase. "Something funny?" said the managing attendant. "Yes," was her reply; "I am laughing at myself for standing here looking at a Bible, when I know that not a word of it is true, and that it is used by a decadent group of people."—"Your statement is interesting. Upon what do you base your judgment?"—"Why, the people among whom I associate all say so." When told of the translation and distribution of this "decadent book," she replied, "Well, I suppose it is all right as a book of reference literature."

Before she left she purchased an inexpensive volume, with a promise to allow its message to have a chance at her life.

A veteran purchased a New Testament and said: "This is the first one I have had since the Spanish-American War, and I believe that I would like to read it again."

A woman of fifty, brought up as a Catholic, when forty-nine years of age chanced to read a Bible in a hotel room one night. It was so interesting, that she invited a friend in and they spent many evenings reading together. At the Bible exhibit she purchased a Bible, and said: "Now I can read it any time I wish, and it will not be anybody's business."

The exhibit did much to impress upon local churches and the general public attending the Exposition, the essential work of the Bible Society. It also proved an outlet for many thousand Scripture volumes of the Book of Life.

Surely, God's blessing abides; for he promised: "My word shall not return unto me void."



# A Local Bible Society Celebrates

THESE tragic days when the cherished liberties of men have been lost in many lands and are in jeopardy even in America, it is well to remember that, in the early days when our nation was sending down its roots, one of the most vigorous movements that stirred in the life of the people was the Bible Society movement, whose sole purpose it was to collect funds to make possible the distribution of the Bible to every American home. The first of these societies to be formed was the Pennsylvania Bible Society, still functioning very actively as an auxiliary of the American Bible Society. It was organized in 1809. Seven years later, when the American Bible Society was instituted, there



*John Jay, founder of the West Chester County Bible Society*

were more than one hundred such organizations scattered along the Atlantic seaboard. One of these celebrated on October 31 its 125th anniversary. It was the Westchester Bible Society, which, in December 1814, was organized in the Presbyterian Church of Bedford, Westchester

County, New York. Its founder and first president was the Honorable John Jay, first chief justice of the United States Supreme Court, then a resident of Bedford village. The constitution, drawn up at this first meeting, stated in the quaint and stilted tongue of those days: "The design of this institution is, by combining the efforts of the pious and liberal of the different denominations, to distribute gratuitously or otherwise, the Holy Scriptures without note or comment among the destitute poor of this county."

At the seventy-fifth annual meeting the society was presided over by John Jay, who was the grandson of Chief Justice John Jay, and whose father, William Jay, had been the society's first secretary and for fifteen years its president. Chief Justice Jay, it may be remarked, was the second President of the American Bible Society, serving from 1821 to 1828.

The Westchester Bible Society has made a worthy record during its century and a quarter of activity. Its annual meetings have been held in nearly all the towns of the county and in the churches of nearly all the denominations—Presbyterian, Methodist, Congregational, Baptist, Episcopalian, Reformed, and Quaker.

Approximately \$210,000 have been collected and expended for the work of the society, and \$122,680 donated to the American Bible Society for its publication and world-wide distribution of the Scriptures. In the last fifteen years, 21,813 copies of the Scripture were distributed in the county.

The 125th annual meeting was in Bedford House on the highway near Katonah, the home of Chief Justice John Jay and now the residence of Mrs. Arthur Iselin, great-great-granddaughter of the first chief justice.

The present president of the Westchester County Bible Society is Howard Whittemore, who is also an active member of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society. The society's secretary is Rev. James P. Gillespie.

No greater boon could come to the American nation than to have every one of the hundreds of counties in the forty-eight states as thoroughly organized for Scripture distribution as is Westchester County in New York State.



# "I Sail On—with You"

*A brief digest of remarks made at the weekly staff prayer meeting at the Bible House by the new General Secretary, who began his service on November 1*

By Frederick W. Cropp



**I**T is a high privilege to become a member of the staff of the American Bible Society. The international influence of this strategic agency of Christendom is nourished by the warm heartbeat of its consecrated workers. Many times in the past few days have I recalled the thanksgiving of the ancient psalm:

Blessed be the Lord; for he hath showed me his marvelous kindness in a strong city.

A personal word is imperative, for I would share my convictions about our mutual task as members, workers, and friends of the American Bible Society. When I entered the ministry, I placed at the center of my life the same Figure which you, who call yourselves by His name, have placed at the heart of yours. He, the gleaming Christ, is in very reality my Lord. I passionately desire that he may be the world's Lord. Our hearts beat high whenever we hear the familiar verse,

I know of lands that are sunk in shame;  
Of hearts that faint and tire;  
And I know a Name, a Name, a Name  
That can set those lands on fire.  
Its sound is a brand, its letters flame.  
I know a Name, a Name, a Name  
That will set those lands on fire.

St. Paul said it when he observed:

I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I that live, but Christ liveth in me: and that life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith which is in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself up for me.

And, again, more simply he put it, "For me to live is Christ." In the light of that affirmation, one must be ready to let his life be used where it will count most effectively. Jesus Christ is found first, not in nature nor in life, but in the Book. The further distribution and use of the Bible is a modern imperative. It calls me as only the active pastorate has called me hitherto. With an insistence which is inescapable, the call has come, unsought, and accepted by an inner urgency which I interpret as the very voice of God.

At luncheon the other day I heard the case put clearly. Men become devoted to a book

which expresses the unuttered yearnings of their souls. For some it may be one book; for others, another. "Das Kapital" and "Mein Kampf" are ready instances of this truth. But they, and books like them, pander to the narrow provincial, racial, and class consciousness of men. We have another book—a book which answers no intolerant and insular hatreds, but which enables the nameless longings to find their Name. That book we declare to our troubled world in the words of a theme already become familiar to each of us—"The Positive Answer to the World's Despair."

So, despite the "sadness of farewell" to a loyal congregation full of faithful friends, I am anxious to be sailing into the uncharted seas of my own interpretation of my new task, following ever the glistening white sail of the Pilot's ship. Those lines of Whitman's from his "Passage to India" take on new meaning for us today.

Passage, immediate passage! The blood burns in my veins!

Away, O soul! Hoist instantly the anchor!  
Cut the hawsers—haul out—shake out every sail! . . .

Sail forth—steer for the deep water only,  
Reckless, O soul, exploring, I with thee and thou with me;

For we are bound whither mariner has not yet dared to go,  
And we will risk the ship, ourselves, and all.

O my brave soul!

O farther, farther sail!

O daring joy, but safe! Are they not all the seas of God?

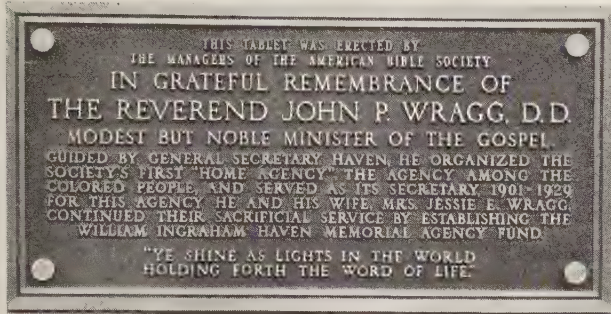
O farther, farther sail!

To that voyage in which some of you have been traveling for many useful years, I have now joined myself; my luggage is aboard; my spirit is eager; my eye is upon the "farther sail," and I am aware of the warm comradeship of you, my fellow voyagers. With confidence in Him who goes before us and yet remains with us, let us sail on—together.

May God bless us every one, renewing in each of us a sense of mission to transcend the daily work in which we all engage.



# In Honor of John P. Wragg



FOLLOWING the Board meeting on Thursday, November 2, 1939, a bronze tablet erected by the Board was unveiled on the first floor of the Bible House in memory of the long years of untiring service of Dr. John P. Wragg, the first Secretary of the Society's first Agency—that among the colored people of the United States. Through a bequest made by Dr. and Mrs. Wragg expressing their devotion to Dr. William I. Haven, under whose guidance as General Secretary of the Society the Colored Agency was formed in 1901, the Agency was subsequently named "The William Ingraham Haven Memorial Agency among the Colored People of the United States." It was most fitting that the tablet should be unveiled by the hand of William Haven North, the grandson of the late Secretary Haven and the son of the present General Secretary, the Reverend Eric M. North.

President Manson presided over the unveiling service, at which brief addresses were made by Secretary North and Treasurer Darlington,



*William Haven North unveiling the John P. Wragg memorial tablet*

and favorite hymns of Dr. Wragg's read or sung. The opening prayer was made by Dr. L. B. Chamberlain, former Recording Secretary of the American Bible Society and long-time friend of Dr. Wragg. About one hundred people attended the unveiling.

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## Membership in the American Bible Society

MEMBERSHIP in the American Bible Society is open to all. There are four classes of Membership. An Annual Membership is created by an annual gift of five dollars. A Life Membership is granted to those who make a gift of \$50 or more at one time. A Life Directorship is created by a gift of \$150 or more made at one time. Memorial Memberships are

created by a gift of \$100 or more in memory of a relative or friend. Individuals, societies, churches or groups within churches, may designate persons for any of these four classes of membership. Parents frequently make their children Life Members. This is a most appropriate Christmas gift; for as long as the child lives, he will receive the *Bible Society Record*. Churches make their pastors, Sunday-school superintendents or other leaders, Life Members or Life Directors.



Memorial Membership in the Society lends itself to a beautiful and useful service. It may be created either by an individual or by a group in memory of a relative or friend, and opens the way for a continuance of the loved ones' Christian service in a world of need. The following Memorial Memberships have been created since our last report:

- Beeman, U. W., by his sister, Mrs. F. B. Dietrick.
- Britt, Mrs. Frances B., by her son, Harley S. Britt.
- Butler, J. F., by his wife, Mrs. J. F. Butler.
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- Neely, William Reed, by his wife, Mrs. Florence K. Neely.
- Watson, Minnie H., by her sister, Isabella Watson.
- Wilford, Mary G., by her brother, H. E. Wilford.

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that anyone could do the job better than I; for I was poorly equipped, with only a few years in schools of the lower grades. God has often encouraged me, however, helping me to overcome bad grammar and timidity, and has given me some wonderful meetings and many souls.

"I can never forget my first service in my home town of Santuc, or the one at Spartanburg. The first protracted meeting I ever held was at Pickens, South Carolina. My first few sermons became rapidly exhausted; but God, in some way, gave me a new one every day, and I have been going ever since. At times I have spoken from the same platform with some of the most noted men of the country. I was invited, not because of my ability, but because I was a railroad man. People seem to think it strange that a man can be a railroad engineer and a preacher. It is not strange. There were workmen before who were preachers. Jesus was a carpenter; Peter was a fisherman; Paul was a tentmaker. Why, then, should not one be a Christian engineer?

"The boys on the road say that all it takes to be a fireman is to have a strong back and a weak mind. Which reminds me of an orphan boy we took into our home for a few years to raise. One morning I was trying to help him with

## World's Fair Remembrances

THE World's Fairs are over. Uncounted thousands of people saw the Society's displays at New York and San Francisco. Souvenir issues of the New York Fair are still available as follows: A 10-inch satin bookmark in either white or gold, printed in blue on both sides, with helpful Scripture passages, ten cents. Souvenir Scripture volumes packed in World's Fair containers, ready to mail, as follows: The Four Gospels in separate volumes, five cents (order "Carton A"); the New Testament in eleven separate volumes, fifteen cents (order "Carton B"); the Four Gospels and the Book of Psalms, large print in five volumes, fifteen cents (order "Carton C"); a pocket Testament bound in World's Fair colors, fifteen cents. While they last these will be shipped postpaid. Address all orders to *Bible Society Record*, Park Avenue and 57th Street, New York City.

his spelling, and he was having a tough time. Finally, in desperation, I said, 'Billy, you will never amount to anything if you cannot spell.' To which came the answer, 'Don't worry, Dad; I'm going to be a railroad man when I grow up.'

"God gave me what I consider a life text: 'Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called. Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God.' (1 Cor. 7: 20, 24.) I noticed that, in the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit anointed his servants for different things besides preaching, as in the building of the temple, and the making of its furnishings. Also I saw that Paul advised Titus: 'Let ours also learn to maintain good works (*profess honest trades*—margin) for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful.' (Titus 3: 14.) I learned that consecration is not changing a person's business, but doing everything in the name of the Lord Jesus. 'Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.' (Col. 3: 23, 24.)

"Tonight I expect to make my last run. When I get into Atlanta tomorrow morning, I shall not railroad any more. But I do not mean to stop work. I expect to serve my Master as long as I am in the flesh, but now necessarily in a different way."



# EDITORIAL COMMENT

## BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

*A Journal Dedicated to the Wider  
Distribution of the Holy  
Scriptures*

Editors: THE SECRETARIES

Address correspondence to Francis  
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**MR. MARK HALSEY**, of Lubbock, Texas, possibly holds the record for Bible sales by a druggist. Last year he sold 1,437. On inquiry, Mr. Halsey writes that all druggists of the old school bought Bibles with

Christmas merchandise, and displayed them as such, and always sold a number. It then occurred to him that Bibles were read all the year around; that poor people as well as the well-to-do read them, and that in a large turnover he could scale the prices. Eventually he carried Bibles priced from thirty-nine cents to fifteen dollars. His former record had been about eighteen Bibles a year. Here is a suggestion that *Record* readers might convey to their community druggist.

Washburn College, Topeka, Kansas, has conferred the degree of doctor of letters upon Mrs. Paul Burgess in recognition of her work in collaboration with her husband in com-

pleting the translation of the New Testament in the language of the Quiché Indians of Guatemala. Dr. and Mrs. Burgess are now on furlough in this country, making final revisions of the completed manuscript, which will be published by the American Bible Society.

### Christmas Gift Suggestion

**H**AVE you read the story "Christmas Present for Johnny" on page 157? Have you thought of giving a Bible to your child or some child for Christmas? The nearest depository of the Society (see page 167) will inform you of the wide variety of Bibles, Testaments, and Testaments and Psalms suitable for Christmas gifts.

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